

## THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE,  
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED AT THE WASHINGTON POST OFFICE AS SECOND CLASS MATTER.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY 24, 1887.

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during the week ending Feb. 19, 1887, was

as follows: Original, 954; increase, 60; re-

issue, 263; restoration, 91; duplicate, 24;

renewal, 40; Act of March 3, 1883, 3; Order

of April 3, 1884, 15; Act of Aug. 4, 1886, 4;

supplemental Act of Aug. 4, 1886, 89; Mexi-

can War Act, Jan. 29, 1887, 2; total, 2,955.

CANADA relies on the loss of her barley to

help bring us to our senses. One of her pub-

lic men says that it "will make such a rise

in the cost of beer that the enraged Germans

will sweep the Gloucester fishing fleet from

the ocean." Raising the price of beer is in-

deed an awful contingency, and it had escaped

our attention. But it is not likely that some-

where in our 3,000,000 square miles of fer-

tile territory we can—if we are pushed to

it—find a little neck of land that will raise

as good barley as the Bay of Quinty? It

would seem so.

In a previous issue we mentioned the flat-

tering action of the Posts in New York City

and Brooklyn in nominating our untiring

comrade, Jos. W. Kay, for Commander of the

Department of New York. In another col-

umn we publish his letter of dedication, in

which he states at length his reasons. These

do him honor, as everything connected with

his course as a G. A. R. man does. He would

make a splendid Department Commander,

and we are in hopes to soon see him holding

that high position.

## VETERANS! MAKE REPLY.

Let the Press and Your Congressmen  
Hear From You.

Comrades of the Grand Army.

During the past four years the National

Pension Committee of the Grand Army of

the Republic has labored to secure from Con-

gress, among other propositions, such a

liberalization of the pension laws as would

remove from the almshouses of the country,

by granting them pensions, the thousands of

shattered and broken veterans who are now

eking out a pauper's existence. The absolute

justice of this demand has been unanimously

affirmed over and over again by the National

Encampment and by thousands of Posts

throughout the country.

Last month the two Houses of Congress

passed a bill to this effect; it was not so

comprehensive, not so broad, not so just a

bill as the Grand Army desired, but its

effect would have been to at least remove

from public pauperism those needy veterans

now solely dependent on charity.

This bill has been vetoed by the Pres-

ident of the United States. Almost in the

same week the Mexican pension bill, based

on precisely the same principle, only more

broad, and with less limitations and restric-

tions, was approved.

The death or removal to parts unknown

of Surgeons, officers and comrades, during

the more than quarter of a century since

the beginning of the war, absolutely debars

many of the survivors of the conflict with

rebellion from producing the proof re-

quired by existing laws that their present

disabilities arose from their army service.

Look around you, comrades, in your im-

mediate neighborhood, and you will find,

on every hand, veterans of unquestioned

record, or widows of comrades gone, whom

you know to be amply deserving of pen-

sions, but who are unable to obtain them

under existing laws, because of some techni-

cality in the record, or from loss of evidence.

If this veto is to stand; if the veterans

do not make the air ring with their vigorous

and emphatic protest, that the people may

not fail to comprehend—then the end of

pension legislation has come. If we cannot

secure a pension law for the survivors of the

late war as liberal as that enacted for the

Mexican veterans; if we cannot secure

legislation to take a few needy ones out of

the poorhouses and save them from a pau-

per's grave, what hope for anything?

If this veto is to stand, then the charity

funds of the Posts and the public almshouses

will be the only hope of any and all present

or future dependent ones who have not al-

ready pensions.

The Commander-in-Chief has asked an

expression of opinion from the Posts of the

Grand Army relative to this veto. Let it be

prompt, sharp, emphatic. Let there be no

delay or omission. Let every Post speak at

its next meeting. Send one copy of the vote

or resolutions to the Member of Congress

from the district, and another copy to Na-

tional Headquarters.

Some of the leading newspapers have de-

clared that the "honest" soldier sentiment

was in favor of the veto; in favor of the

retention of 15,000 of their comrades in the

pauper-houses of the land.

Let the veterans of the Grand Army make

reply, and with such promptness and decisiveness

as will emphasize their words.

Let no Post in the land fail to act at once.

Yours, for justice,

GEO. S. MERRILL, Chairman,

National G. A. R. Pension Committee.

"GENEROUSLY BESTOWED."

Mr. Cleveland lays much stress upon the

way the Government has "generously be-

stowed" "its bounty" upon those who saved

its life and upon their dependent ones.

We invite the President's attention to one

detail of this "generous bestowal."

The young orphans of dead soldiers have

"generously bestowed" upon them the enor-

mous sum of \$2 a month!

That is 65 cents a day!

Think of such "generosity!"

Six and two-thirds cents a day to provide

a healthy, active child with clothes, copper-

tied shoes, dolls, playthings, medicines,

books, and tickets to Sunday-school excu-

rions!

Two dollars a month to buy the food to

satisfy its healthy appetite and keep its busy

little feet and restless body protected against

the winter's cold and every season's in-

clemency.

Yet the greatest of all our Presidents—in

one of those inspired utterances which knit

the heart of the whole people to him—sol-

emnly promised that the Nation "should

care for him who has borne the battle, and

for his widow and orphans."

Had the father not given his life and

strength for the country, would the child be

pinched and starved now on \$2 a month?

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